

REMARKS

The Examiner objects to the title as not being descriptive of the invention.

Claims 1-20 are pending prior to this amendment.

The Examiner indicates allowability of claim 13 if the claim is rewritten in independent form to include the base and any intervening claims. The Examiner objects to claims 14, 16, 19, and 20 because of informalities. The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 6-12, and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kister (U.S. Pat. No. 6,064,215). The Examiner rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kister.

The Applicants cancel claims 2, 9, 10, and 17 and amend claims 1, 3, 11-16, and 19-20.

Claims 1, 3-8, 11-16, and 18-20 remain in the application after this amendment.

The Applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Claims Allowable

The Applicants thank Examiner Tang for indicating allowability of claim 13. The Applicants amend claim 13 in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 9 and intervening claim 10.

The applicants amend independent claims 1 and 15 to include the limitations the Examiner indicated as not shown in the prior art, namely the provision of a stiffener ring mounted on the circuit board and surrounding the force locator. Claims 1, 3-8, 11-16, and 18-20 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

The Applicants amend claims 14, 16, 19 and 20 to correct typographical errors. The Applicants amend claim 14 to recite "a" device under test and amend claim 16 to recite mounting a force locator on the interface unit. The Applicants amend claim 19 to depend from method claim 15 and amend claim 20 to depend from method claim 16.


Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all claims as amended. The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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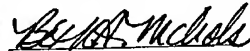
Respectfully submitted,

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(703) 872-9306, on November 11, 2004.


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